

TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE
JOHN STEEN

Who is allowed in the polling place? (cont'd)

- Good Samaritans
 - Interpreter for voter (§ 61.032)
 - Person assisting voter (§ 64.032)
 - Person accompanying disabled voter (§ 64.009)
- Law Enforcement
 - IF summoned by presiding judge (§ 32.075)
 - IF appointed as special peace officer by presiding judge (§ 32.075)



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Who is NOT allowed in the polling place?

- Candidates (§ 61.001(b))
 - Unless voting, assisting a voter, or conducting official business in the building
- Bystanders (§ 61.001(a))
 - People who are not in the polling place to vote or for one of the other permitted reasons



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Assisting a Voter

§§ 33.057, 64.031, 64.032

- Who is eligible for assistance?
 - Any voter who is physically unable to mark the ballot.
 - Any voter who cannot read the ballot due to visual or other impairment.



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Assisting a Voter (con't)

- What types of assistance are allowed?
 - Reading the ballot to the voter.
 - Directing the voter to read the ballot.
 - Marking the voter's ballot.
 - Directing the voter to mark the ballot.



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Assisting a Voter (con't)

- Who is eligible to assist a voter?
 - Any person that the voter chooses.
 - Except: the voter's employer, an agent of their employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union.
 - This includes candidates!



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Assisting a Voter (con't)

- Person can provide assistance regardless of:
 - The fact that they have assisted someone else.
 - Their residence.
 - Their citizenship.
 - Their voter registration status.
 - Their age.



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Assisting a Voter (con't) §§ 33.057, 64.032(b)

- What if the voter doesn't choose the assistant?
 - Election workers may assist a voter.
 - Two workers must assist together. (One worker may assist during early voting.)



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Assisting a Voter (con't)

- Who else can be there?
 - If the voter chooses their assistant, no one else may be present.
 - If election workers are assisting a voter, poll watchers may be present to observe.

